

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO USMISSION USUN NY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0696

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP PV UN

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF GUINEA-BISSAU FIRST SECRETARY IN CONAKRY
TO UN MISSION

1. GUINEA-BISSAU FIRST SECRETARY IN CONAKRY, MR. LASSANA TURE
TOLD EMBOFF HE HAS BEEN NOMINATED AS FIRST SECRETARY TO GUINEA-
BISSAU MISSION AT UN, AND WAS SCHEDULED TO DEPART FOR NEW YORK
LATTER HALF OF APRIL 1976.

2. BIO DATA ON MR TURE: BORN MAY 6, 1949 IN BAFATA, GUINEA-
BISSAU. ATTENDED UNIVERSITY OF DAKAR, MAJORING IN HISTORY.
STUDIED FRENCH AT MARSEILLES FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND RUSSIAN
IN MOSCOW. TRAVELLED THROUGH SOVIET UNION, CZECHOSLOVAKIA,
HUNGARY, AND EAST GERMANY. SPEAKS EXCELLENT PORTUGUESE, FRENCH
WOLOF, MANDINGE AND CREOLE. HAS GOOD KOREAN AND SPANISH, SOME
RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH. DURING INDEPENDENCE STRUGGEL 1969-72
WAS POLITICAL COMMISSAR OF UNIT AND PLATOON COMMANDER. IN
1972-73 WAS OFFICIAL TRANSLATOR WITH GUINEA-BISSAU DELEGATION
IN NORTH KOREA. CONAKRY WAS TURE'S FIRST DIPLOMATIC POST.
HE WAS NOT WITH REST OF PAIGC IN CONAKRY DURING INDEPENDENCE
STRUGGLE, WHICH MAY BE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN HIS PRESENT
ORIENTATION.

3. TURE HAS CONSTANTLY MAINTAINED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THIS
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EMBASSY, ALTHOUGH HE HAS TENDENCY TO BE NONCOMMITTAL IN SUB-

STANTIVE DISCUSSION AND IS HIGHLY RETICENT ABOUT SHARING ANY INFORMATION. IT IS DIFFICULT TO MAKE JUDGEMENTS ABOUT TURE'S POLITICAL PERSUASIONS SINCE HE REFUSES TO BE DRAWN IN QUITE THAT DEEPLY. HE IS BY NO MEANS DOGMATIC MARXIST ALTHOUGH IS SMART ENOUGH IN COUNTRY SUCH AS GUINEA TO BE SEEN TO ADVANTAGE IN COMPANY OF OTHER "PROGRESSIVE" DIPLOMATIS AND MAKE RIGHT SOCIALIST NOISES AS APPROPRIATE. REPORTING EMBOFF FEELS TURE'S SOCIALIST SMOKE SCREEN IS MORE POSTURE THAN DEEP CONVICTION AND CONFIRMS TO HIS IMAGE OF WHAT YOUNG DIPLOMAT FROM NEWLY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN COUNTRY SHOULD BE.

4. PERSONALLY, TURE IS SOFT-SPOKEN YOUNG MAN, WITH SENSE OF HUMOR, WHO HAS MADE MANY CONTACTS IN CONAKRY DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES. HOWEVER HE IS NOTORIOUS FOR BREAKING APPOINTMENTS AND APPEARING LATE AT VARIOUS SOCIAL AND OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS. IN ONE OF LAST CONVERSATIONS BEFORE DEPARTURE, TURE MENTIONED THAT HE WAS THINKING OF RESIGNING FROM DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AFTER HIS UN POSTING AND GOING INTO TEACHING WHICH HE HAD ALWAYS WANTED TO DO. TURE IS OPEN-MINDED INDIVIDUAL, READY TO LEARN AND FULLY AWARE THAT TO DATE HIS EDUCATION HAS BEEN ORIENTED ONE WAY. HE APPEARS PLEASED ABOUT CHANCE TO SEE "OTHER SIDE OF RAINBOW".

5. IF HIS ASSIGNMENT TO NEW YORK COMES THROUGH (GUINEA-BISSAU AMBAUIADOR CORREIA HAS TOLD US ASSIGNMENT NOT YET FIRM) TURE WILL BE EXCELLENT CONTACT FOR USUN.
HARROP

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